tance asked for by the Government of Orissa for the implementation of irrigation projects during last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): Central assistance is given to the State in the form of block loans and grants and is not tied to any particular sector of development or project. The outlay proposed by the State Government during the last three years for irrigation sector were as under:-

| | *Rs. in crores* |
|---|---|
| 1988-89 | 220.68 |
| 1989-90 | 189.13 |
| 1990-91 | 287.71 |

**RMS Sorting Offices**

5868. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of RMS Sorting Offices in the country;

(b) whether all of them have the required structural accommodation with minimum facilities and amenities; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Sir, there are 548 RMS Sorting Offices in the country.

(b) While accommodation is provided to all Railway Mail Sorting Offices, in the case of units functioning in rented or Railway premises, due to various constraints, it is not always possible to provide desired level of facilities and amenities in them.

(c) Subject to availability of resources, in a phased manner, better accommodation is arranged, wherever possible.

**Sorting Machines in RMS Offices**

5869. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken to instal sorting machines in RMS Offices;

(b) if so, the cost of each machine and the country from which the Government propose to import such machines; and

(c) the number of RMS offices which are being provided with this machine and the number of employees likely to be rendered surplus as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) A decision has been taken to instal automatic integrated mail processing system in Bombay.

(b) This technology is available only in some developed countries and the equipment has to be imported. Action for procurement of equipment is under way.

(c) A study of the project for Bombay show that 85 sorters would become available for deployment else where to sort the rest of the non-machineable articles and increased work-load in other spheres of Postal and RMS activity, after the proposed equipment is installed.

**Fishing Harbour at Paradip**

5870. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an abnormal delay